

COLORED ASSAILANT OF AGNES LOEBECK PAYS FOR HIS CRIME

Omaha Mob Hangs And Burns Negro Who Assaulted White Girl After Court House Is Destroyed By Fire And Many Are Injured

Crowd Gathers Early Sunday Afternoon in Front and Rear of Court House and Is Swelled From Then On Until in Evening Thousands Aid in it—Building Set Ablaze and Prisoner Finally Turned Over to Crowd—Mayor Smith Almost Lynched—Court House Completely Gutted.

(Continued From Page One.)

Part of the rope with which the negro was lynched was cut up into short lengths and carried off as "souvenirs."

"Give me a piece of that rope," one man shouted to another.

"Can't do it, Bill, it's got a hunk of blood on it and I wouldn't part with it," was the reply.

Lieut.-Gov. P. A. Barrows called Secretary of War Baker on the long distance telephone and troops from Fort Omaha and Fort Crook were ordered out. It was necessary for the order to come through Major-General Wood, who is enroute to Deadwood, S. D., and as soon as he reached the order came to Omaha.

In direct charge of Major Henry C. White of Fort Omaha, the Ninth, Twelfth and Twenty-seventh Balloon companies of soldiers were detailed on downtown streets at 11 o'clock to disperse the crowd. A radius of one block around the court house was under heavy patrol. No one, save firemen, was permitted to pass the lines. Lieutenant Gibson was in charge of the Twenty-seventh company. Lieutenant Batson was in command of the Twelfth. Many of the men have seen duty overseas.

At midnight Lieutenant Governor Barrows and Phil Cross, secretary to Governor McKelvie, had 400 special state agents sworn in and a special train ready to bring them to Omaha. When the mob started to disperse state officials decided to hold the men in Lincoln.

CROWD GATHERS IN AFTERNOON.

The outbreak which resulted in the lynching of Brown was started early Sunday afternoon when a crowd of nearly 1,000 gathered at the Harney street entrance of the court house. At 5:45 Sergeant Samuel Morris of the police department telephoned headquarters for assistance. In about 15 minutes a patrol wagon responded with a few policemen.

The crowd gathered in numbers and increased in boldness. Two lines of hose were extended through second-story windows and water was turned on the crowd. Bricks and stones were obtained from a vacant lot across the street and the missiles were hurled through windows as high as the third floor. One of the Harney street doors was battered in and many gained admittance, running upstairs and quickly appearing in the windows to encourage others to follow.

Every minute after 6 o'clock added to the tenseness of the scene. Several incipient gasoline blazes inside of the court house occurred about 8 o'clock and it was not long before the flames were seen enveloping the office of County Treasurer Endres. The flames spread to most of the court house, breaking out of windows on the Eighteenth street side.

FIREMEN COULD NOT WORK.

When the fire department responded to an alarm the crowd was in no mood to allow the firemen to extinguish the fire.

All through the evening the crack of pistol shots was heard in and around the court house. Victims were carried out to nearby drug stores for attendance. Many of the merchants in the vicinity of the court house closed their doors shortly after 9 o'clock.

During the early evening some of the crowd mounted the stairway of the court house to the sheriff's office and were met by fumes of liquid formaldehyde which had been strewn upon the floors.

Pandemonium reigned among the prisoners in the county jail when the smoke reached the cell rooms. The negro prisoners were panic-stricken.

A negro named Smith was hanged to a telephone pole across from the Boyd theater 20 years ago. This negro was charged with assaulting a white girl, the Omaha Guards, who were "sipping" at the time in the theater, in "Shenanigans" were summoned from the building but were unable to avert the hanging.

Word to Be Ready Passed

Word to be ready passed around early Sunday morning the word was spread around in Gibson that an attempt would be made to lynch Brown in the afternoon and that all arrested should meet at Bancroft street school, Eighth and Bancroft streets, at 3 in the afternoon.

Three hundred residents of Gibson some of them women, but many boys, met at the appointed place and followed Millard Hoffman, who witnessed the attack on Miss Loebck, to the court house. The mob marched north on Twelfth street, word was received at Central police station of intentions and Chief of Detectives John Dunn, with a crowd of officers, met the mob at Thirteenth and William streets.

When Dunn ordered them to disperse, shouts of "Go to Hell," came from the crowd. Hoffman is said to have brandished a revolver and screamed "follow me."

At the court house the mob was met by two dozen police officers.

Colored Officer on Guard. Officer William Ransom, colored, was on guard at the south or Harney street entrance to the court house. When the crowd pushed toward Ransom he drew his revolver, members of the mob say, and pressed it to the stomach of a youth.

"Lynch that black—" came from many throats and Ransom was hurled into the court house pocketing his gun. Two hours later Ransom was found in the basement of the building. It is believed he escaped when the fire reached his hiding place.

Police Captain Henry Haze ordered every officer on the force to the scene. Soon the court house was surrounded by more than 150 uniformed men.

The mob consisted principally of young men and boys, many of whom had attended school with Agnes Loebck at Bancroft school. Pedestrians and autoists from all parts of the city gathered at the court house as soon as the wild-fire news spread. The crowd soon numbered 6,000 people.

The mob surged about the county building for more than an hour before a real attempt was made to gain entrance to the building.

In the meantime the police kept breaking up the larger crowds and keeping them away from the building.

J. T. Thomas, Gibson, Neb., a mechanic for Andrew Murphy and Son, appeared before the crowd about 4:30 wearing a badly torn shirt. He had no coat.

The crowd pushed along behind him until he stood at the curbing in front of the Harney street entrance to the court house.

Thomas addressed himself to the police who stood between the mob and the doors.

"If that Loebck girl had been a sister of yours you'd throw down your badges and clubs and lead us into the building," Thomas said. "Don't be afraid of losing your jobs. Just let two or three of us in and we'll take care of them."

His appeals brought laughs from the police.

The crowd listened to Thomas for several minutes and then with a rush stormed the doors, forcing back the officers who were guarding them.

The glass panels in the doors crashed in and a few minutes later with another rush the doors themselves splintered.

25 Officers in Building. Twenty-five police officers yesterday took their places inside the building. Rush after rush against the doors was repelled by the police.

The mob seized Robert P. Samardick, a police officer, and beat him badly. Officer Harry Askwith rescued Samardick and pushed him into a niche in the building. Askwith fought valiantly to defend his fellow officer. In a few minutes a dozen officers and detectives pushed through the crowd and rescued Samardick.

A fire hose secured inside the building sent a stream of water into the crowd storming the doors.

A shower of bricks and stones from the vacant lot west of the Y. M. C. A. building answered the stream of water.

Window after window on the Harney street side of the county building was pierced with missiles. Another hose shot a stream of water from a second story window and the aim of the missile-throwers went to the upper floors of the building.

Rope Across Saddle Horn. William Francis, Thirteenth and Vinton streets, a "close friend of the Loebck girl," was mounted on a horse. He was clad in a high school cadet uniform. A rope lay

across the saddle horn. Francis stood in the saddle in front of the court house and said a mob of negroes was forming at Twenty-sixth and Grant streets. The excitement of the crowd grew to fever height with that announcement.

The police inside the building began shooting down the elevator shaft to frighten the crowd. That move only intensified the mob's excitement. The crowd gradually walked around the building.

A lone negro, about 50 years old, appeared at Seventeenth and Farnam streets about 5 o'clock. A mob was on him at once. They struck and kicked him several times before Johnnie Lee, Omaha pugilist and an unidentified soldier could rescue him. But for Lee and the soldier the negro would probably have been seriously injured. Lee and the soldier hurried the negro north on Seventeenth street followed by a raging mob. At Douglas street they pushed him onto the running board of a touring car bearing license number 193888 Neb. in which two men and two women were riding. The driver of the car hurried east on Douglas street with the negro.

Negro Seen in Car. A negro was seen in an eastbound Farnam street car as it passed Seventeenth street. A youth clambered into an open window, struck the negro twice and then leaped out. Some one pulled the trolley from the wire and the car rolled down the hill to Sixteenth street without power.

Most of the mob then directed attention to the front doors of the court house. The glass panels were smashed in, but when police officers in the rounds of the building began to shoot the crowd refused to enter the portals.

Claude L. Nethaway, whose wife was murdered in a lonely railroad cut north of Florence two years ago by a negro named Charles Smith, pushed his way through the crowd to the court house steps.

Facing the crowd he screamed, "My wife was murdered by a negro. If I get my hands on this one, I'll bury him to the stake!"

Cheers greeted his announcement and he started into the building. Two shots rang through the tundra and Nethaway returned to the crowd.

Guns and Ammunition Arrive. When darkness began to fall the mob began to shoot in answer to the police. Guns and ammunition began to arrive from the plundered sporting goods houses and pawn shops.

Someone brought a large quantity of gasoline. Members of the mob poured it through a window into the city treasurer's office in the Farnam street side of the building and touched a match to it. As the file cases took fire a brilliant blaze lighted up the whole courtyard. The fire soon burned down but it was started again. This time it spread to other offices on the first floor and then upward through the building.

At 9:30 Police Officer Earl O. Risk from South Side station escaped from the building. He had fought his way from the fourth floor, through the smoke and flames. Risk ran for help to the fire station at Eighteenth and Harney streets.

"When I left the fourth floor the smoke and flame were terrible," said Risk. "Police Commissioner Ringer, Captain Haze and some officers are still up there."

The police waved a white flag

from the top floor of the court house at 9:42 o'clock.

Momentarily firing ceased.

The hook and ladder crew of the Omaha fire department drove up and stopped before the main span of windows directly under where the officers were waving their flag. Four officers appeared in the window.

At 9:50 the ladder began to raise.

Mighty Cheer Goes Up. A mighty cheer went up from the crowd. At 9:51 o'clock the ladder's top touched the window sill on the top floor. A few hit and miss shots were fired from the crowd. The window pane above the officers crashed and three of them ducked to escape the bullets.

A few seconds later an officer began to descend. At the base of the ladder a half dozen members of the mob began to mount the ladder. The officer at the top descended slowly. Meanwhile the powerful search light of the fire department played on the policemen in the window.

Two other policemen, one after the other, began to descend.

The first had reached the automobile. He was seized by the mob and dragged bodily across the street. Cries of "Kill him," "Don't let him get away," were heard. The mob began to beat the officer. He was soon unconscious. Across Harney street the mob held the man against the steps of the Y. M. C. A. Men jumped up and down on him assaulting him mercilessly.

Four or five pulled at his legs.

Burst Through Y. M. C. A. Doors. The mob burst through the doors of the Y. M. C. A. carrying their victim with them. Officials and attendants of the association, along with volunteers of the mob attempted to defend the man from assault, to no avail. He was dragged through the main lobby of the building to the rear door leading to the gymnasium.

Here the reporter lost sight of him.

Meanwhile the physical director's office at the association building had been converted into an emergency station for wounded and injured.

Two young men, one wounded in the left shoulder by a glancing blow and the other unconscious, said to be suffering from internal injuries and a broken leg, were cared for. Others came in at short intervals.

The officer is believed to be dead. The other officer with Commissioner Ringer are thought to have escaped from the building later.

Late in the afternoon Police Chief Eberstein mounted the ledge of a window on the Harney street side of the county building and began to address the crowd.

"No man in the city of Omaha or the state of Nebraska regrets the crime this man committed more than I do," he said.

"Give us the negro!" yelled the crowd.

Brick Is Thrown. The chief attempted to continue, raising his hand for silence, when a brick crashed through the window above his head.

Immediately his hose was turned on the mob which scattered. It formed again within a few minutes, however, and the chief resumed.

"I want to say that the police are doing all in their power to run down the men who commit these crimes against women, be they white or black," he cried.

Got 90 Days. "The last one got 90 days," yelled a man. The crowd followed the remark with jeers and yells that were heard blocks away.

"We have got the man," shouted the police chief desperately, and we have got the gun he used. He has been identified. But I appeal to you not to do this thing. Don't do it, don't do it, boys. I ask you to disperse and go home."

At this the cries of the mob drowned out the voice of the chief. "We want the nigger," they yelled in concert. The chief then gave up the attempt to be heard and retired from the window.

A negro who was walking down Sixteenth street last night escaped being shot to death when 100 people who had stolen shot guns and revolvers from the pawn shops along that street fired at him. The crowd ran the negro down an alley when he fell and thinking he was dead his pursuers walked away. Later the crowd learned that the negro fell to save his life and walked away uninjured. The crowd fired several shots at the negro.

The following persons are

rested during the course of the riot and booked at Central police station for investigation:

William Johnson, 931 North Twenty-fifth street; Floyd Robinson, Thirtieth and N streets; B. Perry, 1411 Cass street; John Williams, 123 North Twenty-fifth street; Frank Richardson, 11 3/4 Sprague street; Paul Tapley, 2555 Manderson street; Homer Steeles, 2427 Parker street; Onond Showalter, 805 South Eighteenth street; and Lester Price, 2255 Seward street.

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Loads of guns and ammunition of all description were sent to the police station by police from lower Douglas street. When police approached crowds firearms were dropped and scattered and the guns were collected and sent to the police station.

Wilson Arrives Home; Condition Remains Same. Washington, Sept. 28.—President Wilson returned to Washington Sunday from his interrupted tour for the peace treaty. He was able to walk through the railway station from his special train to a White House automobile, and was taken at once to the White House, where it was said there was little change in his condition.

Conductor's Nerve Saves Negro From Fury of the Mob

The nerve of a street car conductor saved a lone negro from being mobbed at the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets just about dark.

The negro had jumped on the car at Seventeenth. The conductor swung the door shut and the car shot down the Farnam hill. A mob of boys and young men failed to get on, the conductor boldly ignoring their demands of "open the door."

Just as the car passed Sixteenth the trolley was pulled down. The car sped down the hill at top speed, too fast for the rioters to follow.

At Thirteenth the conductor swung open the door and the negro, safe, jumped off and darted up Thirteenth street.

Loebck Girl's Chum Appeals to the Crowd With Tears in Eyes

An incident that might have inflamed the crowd to a frenzy was averted at the court house by Miss Frances Hobbs, a chum of Miss Agnes Loebck, assailed by the negro Brown.

Breaking into tears, she appealed to the mob to hear her, and was hoisted to the shoulders of some of the men.

"This poor, innocent girl was my chum," she cried, "and I ask you—Yells interrupted her, and her escort, apparently fearful of the consequences, pulled her down and hurried her away.

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Sheriff Clark Tells Story of How Negro Prisoner Is Turned Loose to Lynchers

Will Brown was handed over to thirty members of the mob on the fourth floor of the court house by Brown's fellow prisoners according to Sheriff Mike Clark.

Here's Clark's story of the capture of Brown:

"The deputy sheriffs had orders to hold Brown and they did all in their power to do so. When the flames and smoke crowded us off the fourth floor, Commissioner Ringer, Chief Eberstein, Mayor Smith and some police officers started for the freight elevator. The last men into the elevator were Mayor Smith, Commissioner Ringer and Chief Eberstein.

"The women prisoners were screaming at the tops of their voices. We took fifteen women prisoners and released them rather than have them burn like sheep there in their cells. They escaped from the building.

"Later we took the male prisoners out of their cells when it became too hot there and led them to the roof of the building. They were panic-stricken. The colored prisoners seized Brown and tried to push him over the cornice into the crowd below. The white prisoners and deputy sheriffs restrained them.

"I was on my way up a stairway to the roof when a mass of bodies tumbled down over my head and sprawled on the floor beneath me.

"The colored prisoners had bolted by me with Brown in their clutches. They hurried him to the floor below and turned him over to a crowd of thirty or more who had climbed into the window from an extension ladder. That was the last I saw of Brown.

"We had 126 prisoners in the jail Sunday morning. We released fifteen women. Three men prisoners escaped, two were confined for petty offenses and one for burglary."

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Mob Enters Gun Stores to Secure Firearms---Nothing Taken but Ammunition

Police Arrest Negro Armed With Three Guns in Jackson Street Basement and by Clever Ruse Escape With Prisoner—Armed With Shotguns, Police Barricaded in Fire Hall, Hold Mob Back.

Approximately 50 men broke into the Townsend Gun company store, 1514 Farnam street, at 8 o'clock and took 30 rifles and all the revolvers and ammunition in the store.

Employees of the store said nothing was missing but the firearms and the ammunition.

The lock on the front door of the store was broken. Walter G. Clark, sporting goods house, 1408 Harney street, was also entered by the mob and all of the stock of guns and ammunition taken.

Jackson Street Riot.

A negro and a white soldier engaged the police and the mob at Eleventh and Jackson streets at 7:30 in front of fire hall No. 1. The negro was armed with a revolver which he fired into the crowd. The white soldier was armed with a club. When a policeman interfered he beat the officer. Here the mob took a hand.

The white soldier was knocked unconscious and the negro took refuge in a cellar at 1110 Jackson street. The mob, growing to more than 2,000 persons, many of them girls and women, together with the police stormed the house. The negro held them at bay for 10 minutes. A riot call was sent to police headquarters and two automobile loads of police and an ambulance responded.

Smardick Arrests Negro.

Policemen Woods and Samardick attempted to invade the cellar, but were halted by shots from the negro's revolver.

Samardick crept into the cellar way in the darkness, during an interval of silence that followed; he turned his flashlight into the cellar and, locating the negro, ordered him to surrender. The negro, taken by surprise, surrendered.

The mob, learning of the capture by the police, rushed into the doorway. Cries of "Lynch him," "Let us have him," were frequent. One man pressed forward with a rope. The police, led by Sergeants Russell and Rose and Captain Briggs, held the

mob off while Officers Samardick and Woods remained below with the negro.

Use Clever Ruse.

Finally by a clever maneuver the man was rescued. Officer Samardick later relating the story said: "We agreed on a plan," "Sergeant Russell instructed me to fire two shots at the same time yelling 'He's got the gun again,' which I did. This threw the crowd back for a moment."

In the interval that followed the police pressed forward out of the cellar, and rushed the man into a waiting automobile in the alley. The car darted up the alley and to the police station. The mob followed to the police station.

The police were powerless to hold it off. Captain Heifelt, in charge at headquarters, announced that the negro had been taken to Council Bluffs. The mob was unconvinced and a committee of five, three of them soldiers, were brought into the police station and shown through the jail. There was no one there.

Turn Out Lights.

Walter S. Byrne, sales manager of the Omaha Light & Power company, at the request of the police department, disconnected all of the Ak-Sar-Ben ornamental street lights.

William Francis, Thirteenth and Vinton streets, a "good friend of Miss Loebck," rode horseback through the crowd.

At 8 o'clock a mob, estimated at about 1,000 men, accompanied by about 300 automobiles, formed outside central police station.

Cries of "We want him, we want him," filled the air.

The few police on duty at the station tried to reason with the mob and explain that the negro was not there, and would not be brought there.

A rumor spread that the negro, Brown, had been taken from the county jail and rushed to Council Bluffs, but the story was said to be without foundation.

